Treasury Department

March 19th 1855

Sir

Your letter of the 13th inst is received, enclosing that of the Superviser Inspector at Louisville as to the manner of using fusible alloys. Prof Bache being absent from the City I have applied to the officer in charge of the Coast Survey office for the explanation of his mode, which as soon as received will be submitted to the Attorney Genl for his opinion whether its use will be an infringement of Erwin's patent.

In the mean time you can go on in your preparation as proposed in your letter. So far as instructions can be digested for their use without the opinion of the Atty Genl, you can put them in progress so as to be completed with as little delay as possible.

While he must communicate to you, and probably to the best that all applications for allowance be made to this Department which will give the necessary directions. As to the cost of the necessary provisions & boxes & kegs, which should not be expensive, you can consult your own convenience as to the mode of paying for them.

Very respectfully

Your obed Svt

R. J. Walker

for the

Secretary of the Treasury

James C. Booth Esq

Philadelphia

1858
March 19th
J. G. Washington
Washington
D. C.